ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

. . MINUTES . .

—OF THE—

. . NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION . .

—OF THE—

Cedar Bluff BAPTIST . ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

. . BETHLEHEM : CHURCH, . .

SEPTEMBER 21ST TO 23RD, 1893.

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OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Rev. J. N. WEBB, - - - -	Moderator.
JOHN S. WATT, - - -	Clerk.

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COLLINSVILLE, ALA.,
PRINTED AT CLIPPER JOB OFFICE.
1893.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read Letters from the Churches.
2. Reception of New Churches.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Invite Visiting Ministers of our Faith and Order.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Appointment of the following committees, to-wit:
    1. On Divine Service.
    2. On Finance.
    3. On Missions.
    4. On Education.
    5. On Sabbath Schools.
    6. On State of Religion.
    7. On Religious Literature.
    8. On Deceased Ministers.
    9. On Delegates to Convention.
    10. On Preaching Appointments for next Session.
7. Reports of committees.
8. General Business.
9. Appoint Correspondence.
10. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
11. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

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Bethlehem Church, September 21, 1893.

The Cedar Bluff Baptist Association met with Bethlehem church on Thursday, September 21st, 1893, at 11 o'clock.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder H. T. Leath from Isaiah 59th chap. and 1st verse.

The afternoon services were introduced by Moderator reading from 13th chapter of Romans followed with prayer by Bro. Sparks. A call for churches was next made when the following delegates were enrolled:

Bethlehem—Leander Copeland, J. B. Bishop, P. C. Copeland.
Cedar Bluff—J. S. Watt, W. F. Wilder, Geo. G. Lawrence.
Damaris—Harry Davis, Samuel Sparks J. N. Hurt.
Hickory Grove—Alex. Mormon, Jno. T. Wadkins.
Gravel Springs—John Webb, Samuel Dean.
Melrose—J. F. Wester, T. W. Freeman.
Mt. Bethel—Elders J. N. Webb, H. T. Leath, J. L. Leath, T. W. Rinehart, W. J. Leath, Lafayette Webb, D. A. Pledger.
Farrell—Eld. L W Raynes, Jasper Barclay.
Mill Creek—G M Ball, R E Dyke, J C High.
Pilgrim's Rest—John Suggs, Earl Prater.
Pleasant Valley—G W Parker, J P Myrick.
Rock Hill—Jos H Weaver, Jno Warsham, Wm Bagley.
Shady Grove—S W Shepherd, J F Owens, G W Higgins.
Unity—J R McCalmon, N C Walker, T J Pledger.
Union—T L Wagnon, Frank Morris.
Yellow Creek—Samuel Williams, Ellis Hale, T J Hardin.
Leesburg—Z F Nance, K D Thornton, J H Williams.

The election of officers resulted in Eld. J. N. Webb being chosen Moderator; J. S. Watt, Clerk for the ensuing year.

The reception of new churches being in order a petitionary letter was read from Farrell church, and on motion said church was received. Petitionary letters were read from Level Grove and Leesburg churches, and on motion said churches were received into full fellowship. The following committees were then appointed:

On Divine Service—Leander Copeland, J B Bishop, Harry Davis, T W Rinehart, W F Wilder.
On Sabbath Schools—H T Leath, W F Wilder.
On Missions—L W Raynes, D A Pledger, John Webb, Sam Sparks.
On Finance—J L Leath, R S Dean, G G Lawrence.

On call for Correspondents, Eld. J H Glazner was recognized from Etowah Association. Bros. C C Davis and J W Lackey were recognized from Cherokee Association.

On State of Religion—J T Pledger, R E Dyke, Jno Warsham.
On Education—J C High, Jno Shepherd, W J Leath, J L Webb.

Ordered that this body meet at 8:30 a. m.; adjourn at 11 o'clock; meet at 1:30; adjourn at 4:30 p m.

Motion was made and carried that committees on Sunday Schools, Temperance, Missions and Education be appointed to make reports on above subjects at next session of this body.

Committee on Divine Service reported Bro. Raynes to preach to-night. J. H. Glazner at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

Convention then adjourned with prayer by Bro. Raynes.

FRIDAY MORNING, September 22, 1893.

The Association met according to previous appointment. The services were introduced by Moderator reading 9th chapter 1st Cor., followed with prayer by Bro. Glazner.

The minutes of yesterday's conference were read and approved. Call for correspondents being made, Bros. L. Glazner, E. J. Bobo and Bro. Lackey were recognized from Cherokee Association. Bro. Cicero Hurley was recognized as a visiting brother.

Ordered that Leesburg church be the place and Friday before the 4th Sunday in September the time for the next meeting of this Association.

COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE—Eld. Jno. Suggs, G. W. Higgins, N. C. Walker.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS—Leander Copeland, T L Wagnon, J. F. Owens.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION—J. P. Myrick T. W. Rinehart, H. E. Prater.

ON PREACHING APPOINTMENTS—G. M. Ball, P. C. Copeland, R. S. Dean.

ON TEMPERANCE—Eld. H. T. Leath, W. F. Wilder, Jno. Wadkins, H. S. Davis.

The Committee on Sunday Schools made their report. The report was spoken on by Bros. Leath, Raynes, Webb and others, and was adopted without amendment. (See Ex. A.)

Committee on Missions submitted their report. Pending its discussion the hour for services arrived and Bro. Glazner preached from 85th Psalm and 10th verse.

AFTERNOON SERVICES.

The body resumed the discussion of the subject of Missions which was spoken on by Bros. Raynes, Hurley, Webb and Watt and was adopted as read. (See Ex. B.)

Committee on State of Religion made their report and the report was adopted without change. (See Ex. C.)

Committee on Education made their report and was adopted as read. (See Ex. D.)

Committee on Finance made their report and it was adopted. (See Ex. E.)

Committee on Preaching Appointments made its report which was adopted without discussion. (See Ex. I.)

Ordered that Eld. H. T. Leath be and the same is hereby appointed a delegate to represent this Association in the Southern Baptist Convention with O. A. Gardner as alternate.

The regular order of business was suspended and body engaged in devotional exercises.

Committee on Delegates to State Convention made their report and it was adopted as read (See Ex. J.)

Ordered that the Clerk retain the State Mission Fund until Bro. Crumpton can be heard from in regard to payment of Bro. Leath and Glazner as missionaries.

Ordered that Pleasant Valley and Leesburg churches be equally recognized as stations needing assistance from State Board. Convention then adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING, September 23, 1893.

The Association met for business and services were introduced by Moderator reading the 121st Psalm, followed with prayer by Bro. Leath. The minutes of yesterday's conference were read and approved.

The committees to report at next association were as follows:

ON MISSIONS—L. W. Raynes.

ON EDUCATION—H. T. Leath.

ON TEMPERANCE—J. S. Watt.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Z. F. Nance and K. D. Thornton.

Bro. R. T. Ewing was recognized as correspondent from Cherokee County Association.

The Committee on Temperance made its report, and after some discussion was adopted as read. (See Ex. F.)

The Committee on Religious Literature made a report which was adopted, (See Ex. G.)

Committee on Deceased Ministers made their report and, after devotional exercises, was adopted. (See Ex. H.)

Resolved that this body tender their thanks to Bethlehem church and community for their kindness to us during our stay in their midst.

The following Executive Committee was then appointed by the Chair: J. T. Pledger, John Shepherd, G. M. Ball, J. C. High, Leander Copeland.

The Association then adjourned sine die.

J. N. WEBB, Moderator.

J. S. WATT, Clerk.

Committee on Preaching Appointments made their report. Adopted. (See Ex. I.)

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—A.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools make the following report: As to our Association we see no advance. About the same number of schools exist as was reported last year. We find by examining reports made before the last State Convention that they have no statistics for the state at large but say that from the report of the State Mission Board but little has been done during the year as to progress in the Sunday School work. If statistics were perfected they would not show more than half the churches maintaining Sabbath Schools. The report made before the last Southern Baptist convention show but little over half the churches that are fostering Sabbath Schools. Eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-two have schools and 8,552 have none. Those figures reveal two facts that should stimulate us. First, we have a great army to assist us; and second, we have a broad field for mission work. In the 8,862 schools we have 52,513 teachers and 440,262 students. What a vast army for work; what a wide field for operation. The same report shows that the Sunday school books of the Southern Baptist Convention are in a prosperous condition without a discouraging feature. It has done a business of $40,000 during the first year of its existence. It has distributed over $4,000 worth of literature and cash to the cause of missions, and was able to start in on the present year with $1,800, with only $300 liabilities and with nearly $8,000 assets. It is thought that this enterprise can in ten years be made to yield $100,000, which can be expended for missions.

Respectfully submitted,

H. T. Leath, Chairman.

MISSIONS—B.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We, as the church of Christ, feel that no duty is urged upon us with more force and imperativeness than that of giving the Gospel to the entire world. We see from reports sent up from the churches that we are much indebted to him who said: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." If we were to compare our present contributions with those of former days, we realize that this is a hard time upon us as a nation; but should we allow this to interfere with our contributions to him who has bought us with his own precious blood? How incapable is idolatry to deal with the issues of life and death. We know from history that there is nothing that can break in pieces its stronghold and set those free who are held in its clutches. Therefore we would urge the going back to the gospel of giving, that they who are in the regions of sin and darkness may have life, and have it more abundantly, lest we rob God and come short of the glory of God, and many of them perish. We find that all of our boards are in debt except the Sabbath School Board. The call comes from all quarters for help. Shall we turn a deaf ear to those calls? Let it be the duty of this body to increase its contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. Raynes, Chairman.

STATE OF RELIGION—C.

Your committee report with some sorrow that they have nothing very favorable to report. From the different churches composing this association we notice an absence of prayer meetings and would suggest this is part of the cause, and would recommend that they be kept

up in every church. We notice with regret that the usual ingathering in our churches have been quite small during this associational year. We therefore insist upon both pastor and churches doing their whole duty in this grand and noble work. Respectfully submitted,

J. T. PLEDGER, Chairman.

EDUCATION—D.

We, your Committee, submit the following:

We believe there is some advance in the line of Education, yet we do not think that we have fully awakened to the importance of the subject, especially the great importance of educating young men who feel it their duty to preach the Gospel. We believe that we as a christian people fail to feel the necessity of educating our children at home, teaching them diligently that the Bible is the book of books, and that by following its teachings they will be directed in the way of safety and prosperity. We know of no better schools for our boys and girls than the Howard and Judson. Respectfully submitted.

J. C. HIGH, Chairman.

FINANCE—E.

J. S. Watt in account with Cedar Bluff Association:

Received	Home Missions	$ 21 77
"	State Missions	48 71
"	Foreign Missions	40 67
"	Ministerial Education, cash	2 50
"	Ministerial Education, vouchers	6 00
"	for Minutes	15 50
	Total	$140 15

DISBURSEMENTS.

Minutes	$ 15 50
Ministerial Education, cash	7 50
Ministerial Education, vouchers	6 00
Foreign Missions	40 67
State Missions	48 71
Home Missions	21 77
Total	$140 15

TEMPERANCE—F.

We think the good cause of Temperance is gaining ground among our people. We come to this conclusion from what we know of the past and present. Twenty years ago it was common for our members to advocate the free sale of whiskey and boast that they were freemen and had a right to buy and drink it so they did not get drunk. Now such advocates of whiskey are rare exceptions, and if such exist they have got ashamed to advocate it. We know of no ministers who will advocate such thing; and more, our ministers to a man will advocate total abstinence from strong drink as a beverage. They have yielded to the unanswerable argument of the Apostle Paul in Romans 14-21, where he says: "It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak, for the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." So long as our ministers

will stand on this platform and advocate Temperance from Paul's standpoint the only thing necessary to lead us to victory is for the churches to discipline according to the doctrine preached; but how sadly this is neglected we leave you to decide from your own knowledge. Respectfully submitted.

H. T. Leath.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE—G.

Your Committee would recommend the reading of the Bible; also the religious books of our denomination, and that our families be supplied with books of this kind. We recommend the use of "Kind Words Literature" in our Sabbath schools. We urge the importance of taking the "Alabama Baptist," "Foreign Mission Journal," "State Mission Quarterly," "Ford's Christian Repository," the "Baptist Gleaner" and "Baptist and Reflector." Respectfully submitted,

John Suggs, Chairman.

DECEASED MINISTERS—H.

We find that while death has been abroad in the land and has called for many of our race, an allwise God has seen fit to preserve the lives of our ministers through another year, for which we ask this body to spend a few minutes in praise to Him that doeth all things well. Respectfully submitted,

Leander Copeland, Chairman.

PREACHING APPOINTMENTS—I.

Your Committee on Preaching Appointments beg to submit the following: Introductory sermon, Eld. L. W. Raynes; alternate, O. A. Gardner. Missionary sermon, Eld. H. T. Leath; alternate, M. A. Cornelius. Respectfully submitted,

G. M. Ball, Chairman.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION—J.

Your Committee recommend the following as delegates to Baptist State Convention: Elders H. T. Leath, L. W. Raynes, J. T. Bartlett, J. S. Watt. Respectfully submitted,

J. P. Myrick.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CEDAR BLUFF ASSOCIATION, 1893.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Minutes.
Bethlehem,	$ 85	50	$ 50		$ 75
Cedar Bluff,	12 00	12 00	12 46		2 50
Damaris,	1 30	2 00	2 75	$ 5 00	1 25
Hickory Grove,	1 00	75	1 00		1 00
Gravel Springs,	1 00	1 00	1 16		70
Mill Creek,		12 00		* 5 00	1 00
Mt. Bethel,		13 00	2 00		1 70
Pleasant Valley,	50	60	50	* 1 00	50
Rock Hill		50	50		50
Shady Grove,	1 71	2 00	2 00		2 00
Union,			3 15		
Yellow Creek,	1 05				1 00
Pilgrim's Rest,			1 60		
Melrose,					50
Farrell,		2 00	1 00		1 00
Unity,			10 15	2 50	1 10
Total	$19 41	46 35	38 31	13 50	15 50
Public collection	2 36	2 36	2 36		
Total	$21 77	$48 71	$40 67	$13 50	$15 50

Elder J. N. Webb, Moderator,
Broomtown, Alabama.

J. S. Watt, Clerk,
Cedar Bluff, Ala.

The session of 1894 will be held with Leesburg Church on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1894.

*Vouchers.

STATISTICS OF CEDAR BLUFF ASSOCIATION, 1893.

Churches.	County.	Pastors.	Clerk.	Clerks' Post Office.	Members last reported.	Increase				Decrease				Present Membership.	Sund. School Teachers.	Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.
						By Baptism	By Letter.	By Experi'ce	By restor'n.	By Letter.	By Exclu'n.	By Erasure.	By Death.				
Bethlehem	Cherokee.	J. R. Ramsey	M. M. Strawn	Sand Rock	50		1	6		12	1	1	1	45	1		
Cedar Bluff	"	J. W. Pullen	John Lawrence	Cedar Bluff	98		2			3			2	92			1
Damaris	"	J. N. Webb	George Bishop.	Lawrence	103		8		3	4	4		1	70	1		2
Hickory Grove	"	V. A. Bell	J. A. Chandler.	Farrell	40		4	1		14				52			4
Gravel Springs	"	H. T. Leath	A. J. Bankson	Congo	28		2			2	2			27	1		3
Level Grove	"	T. J. Langford.	L. Tendell	Fort Payne		27	8			13				27			
Leesburg	"	J. H. Glazner	J. H. Williams.	Leesburg										13			
Mill Creek	"	J. N. Webb	W. H. Helms	Cedar Springs	64	1	6			4			1	60	1		3
Mt. Bethel	"	J. N. Webb	J. I. Warsham.	Broomtown	143	22	4		3	3	3			166	8	80	4
Pleasant Valley	"	H. T. Leath	J. P. Myrick	Jamestown	39		9				2			46			
Rock Hill	"	J. N. Webb	J. A. Barcley	Broomtown	41	1				2			1	43			
Shady Grove	"	Thos. Blair	E. B. Digurnett	Maple Grove	145		3		1	21	1			127			3
Unity	"	H. W. Roberts.	J. R. McCalmon	Hurley	39		14	4		3		1	1	59		52	1
Union	"	M. A. Cornelius	T. L. Wagnon	Ball Play		22	17		7	7	5			91	1		
Yellow Creek	"	J. T. Bartlett	J. P. Hays		39		15		1	11				42			3
Farrell	"	L. W. Raynes	J. C. Nixon	Farrell										36			3
Total					606	73	92	11	15	99	18	2	7	736	6	65	

827 987

Churches Dismissed by Letter—Melrose, Pilgrim's Rest.

New Churches Received by Letter—Level Grove, Leesburg.

73
12
1
15
191

99
18
9

DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.

ARTICLE I. We believe that there are three that bear record in Heaven: The Father, Word and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one, the only living and true God, the Creator and Preserver of all men of the Universe.

II. We believe the word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed evermore.

III. That all Scriptures as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

IV. That the law and testimony as set forth in the Scriptures is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their spiritual concerns, and in their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.

V. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all mankind, fell from his state of original purity, and that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.

VI. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through His unmerited mercy receive regeneration, pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.

VII. That those blessings are communicated by that Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven, so that those who are saved are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of themselves; not of work, lest, any man should boast; not by words of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

VIII. That God works all things after the counsel of His own will; foreknown unto Him are all His works from the beginning, and that of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him, and that He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sheep will hear, His voice shall never perish, become dead to the world and to sin, be made alive to God and when He who is their life shall come, appear with Him in glory.

IX. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ, and maintain good work for necessary uses.

X. That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.

XI. That there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, according to the decision of which, the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.

XII. That God has instituted a church on earth, existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in the church relation by the will of God their voluntary consent.

XIII. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and that she has under Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns of judging of the qualifications of her own members for the offices they are to fill, and of choosing her own officers in conformity with the direction of the Word of God.

XIV. That the officers of the churches are pastors and deacons only.

XV. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consists in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.

XVI. That the Lord's supper is a standing ordinance in the Church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time.